GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1580
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
EVALUATION OF SCHOOL READERS AND TEXT BOOKS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to evaluate and scrutinize the School Readers and Text Books being followed by the Government and Private Educrtional Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregular aspects have been brought to the notice of the Government in the content of the text books prescribed by the private educational institutions in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any qualitative changes in the existing Text Books in Uttar Pradesh have been recommended; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) and (b) A Committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on `Regulatory Mechanism for the Textbooks and parallel textbooks taught in schools outside the Government System` was constituted on 10.09.2004 with the following terms of reference:

(i) To study and report on textbooks in Government schools not using the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus;

(ii) To study the textbooks and curriculum of schools outside the Government system, including those run by the religious and social organisations;

(iii) To suggest an appropriate regulatory mechanism for institutionalizing the issue of preparation of textbooks and curricular material.

(c) and(d) The report of the Committee highlighted instances of urban bias, gender bias, communal bias, etc. especially in the textbooks published by private publishers including religious and social organisations.

(e) The Committee suggested, interalia, that curricular materials should adhere to the core principles of egalitarianism, democracy and secularism, and that a National Textbook Council be instituted to monitor textbooks.The recommendations of the Committee are general in nature and not specifically related to Uttar Pradesh.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply at (e).